

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING  
EDUCATION**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**OPEN SESSION**

**March 9, 2009**

**The Open Session of the Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education was called to order at 8:30am on the above date in room 401, Department of Health, three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Law, so called, and other applicable sections of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island as amended.**

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING**

**Jeannine Borozny, RN**

**Genevieve Rodrigues, LPN**

**Sandra Mergerdichian, RN, MS**

**Catherine Rose, RN, MS, Secretary**

**Sharon Smith, RN, MS, President**

**Manuella Reposa**

**Ann Tierney, RN, CRNA**

**Joslin Leasca, RN, MS, RNP, Vice President**

**Michael Gerhardt**

**Cristiana Rosa, MS, RN, PCNS**

**Kristen Maymon, LPN**

**Theresa Jeremiah, RN**

## **BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

**Peggy Matteson, RN, PhD**

**Kristen Maymon, LPN**

## **STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

**Pamela McCue, RN, MS Director**

**Linda Tetu Mouradjian, RN, Compliance Officer**

### **1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

**Sharon Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30am. A quorum was established at this time.**

### **2. PRESENTATION OF MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION OF February 9, 2009**

**On motion of Jeannine Borozny, and seconded by Pam McCue it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of February 9, 2009.**

### **3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**No Report**

### **4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Pam Reported that she and Sharon Smith had attended the NCSBN**

**Midyear Meeting. Ms McCue reported on current and future nursing research initiatives that included simulation as a clinical alternative for nursing education, model regulations that would allow piloting innovations in nursing education, transition into practice programs for new graduates within their first year post graduation, and a qualitative study of graduate nurses from year 1 to year 5 of practice. Ms McCue reported that she would provide more detailed information of these initiatives and their outcomes when NCSBN releases these documents.**

## **5. BUSINESS**

### **a. New England Institute of Technology Presentation**

**Ms Smith addressed the Board informing them that the Board grants approval to nursing programs when these programs demonstrate adherence and compliance to sections 14.0, 15.0 and 16.0 of the Rules and Regulations for the Licensing of Nurses and Standards for the Approval of Basic Nursing Education Programs. Ms Smith summarized the steps of approval process as follows:**

**Authorization to initiate the program**

**Site Visit**

**Initial Approval (begins pre-student admission through graduation of first class)**

**Approval**

**Ms Smith entertained questions from the Board and introduced Mr Kurn to begin his presentation.**

**Seth Kurn, Executive Vice President and Karen Haidemenos, Nursing Program Developer of New England Institute of Technology presented an overview of NEIT and it's plans for offering a registered nurse education program conferring an Associate Degree in Nursing. Prior to the presentation, Ms Haidemenos informed the Board that NEIT submitted an application to a subcommittee of Board members for a detailed review of their compliance to section 15.0. Ms Smith confirmed that this did indeed occur. Discussion and questions ensued among Board members and members of the public.**

**Upon motion of Mr. Gerhardt, seconded by Ms Leasca, the Board voted that NEIT met the requirements therein of section 15.0 and unanimously voted to grant NEIT authorization to initiate their nursing education program.**

**b.HARI proposed statewide “time out” policy**

**Ms Borozny informed the Board that she requested this agenda topic regarding the proposed “Statewide Uniform Surgical Protocol Proposal” created by a subcommittee at the Hospital Association of RI (HARI). The intent of this protocol is to standardize the JCAHO standards in an effort to prevent errors associated with surgical procedures including but not limited to “wrong-sided surgeries”. Ms Borozny informed the Board that after she reviewed this draft policy**

she had concerns. Ms Borozny stated that she met with Gina Rocha, Vice President of Clinical Services at HARI about these concerns and informed her that she would be discussing this at the next Board of Nursing meeting. Mr. Gerhardt made the recommendation that a subcommittee of Board members, including Ms Borozny, an operating room nurse, Ms Smith, also an experienced operating room nurse and patient safety specialist, and Ann Tierney, a certified nurse anesthetist, review this policy and provide written comments back to HARI. Ms Smith suggested that Ms Rocha, be invited to a future Board meeting for further discussion.

#### **c. H5652 Insulin Injection by NA**

Ms McCue informed the Board that bill H5652 would allow nursing assistants the authority to administer insulin injections to patients receiving home care services. After discussion, the Board unanimously voted to oppose this bill for the reason that a nursing assistant does not have the education or knowledge to understand the underlying disease process required for competent insulin administration.

### **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **7. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Gerhardt, it was unanimously voted to move into Executive Session pursuant to

**42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws for the discussion of job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure and licensees and for discussion of investigatory proceedings relating to misconduct by applicants licensure and licensees, and investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct. The Open Session adjourned at 9:20am.**

## **8. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION FOR PRESENTATION OF FINAL ACTIONS**

**Ms Smith called the Open Session back to order at 1:30 pm.**

## **9. VOTE TO SEAL MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTIONS OF 42-46-5 OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS**

**On motion of Ms. Mergerdichian , seconded by Ms. Rose, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in the Executive Session and to seal those minutes in as much as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.**

## **10. PRESENTATION OF FINAL ACTIONS**

**The following actions were voted by the Board on the following licensess**

**Virginia Sheridan RN- Reprimand**

**Catherine Wallace, RN- 1 year probation with practice restrictions.**

**Patty Leone, RN- 3 year probation with practice restrictions.**

**Marianne McPherson, RN- 3 year probation with practice restrictions.**

**Lorraine Walach, RN- Reprimand.**

**Laurie Strong, RN- 3 year probation with practice restrictions.**

**The following cases were voted a finding of No Unprofessional conduct**

**PN08-058**

**PN09-015**

**RN09-013**

**RNA09-017**

**RN09-02**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion of Ms. Leasca, and seconded by Ms. Borozny, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 2:05 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted by,**

**Catherine Rose, RN, MS, Secretary**